

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification is amended for clarity and claims 1 and 3 are amended. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the subject matter added to claims 1 and 3 may be found, for example, at Figs. 11-24.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is requested to consider the information identified in the November 15, 2005 Information Disclosure Statement.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,813,121 (Pinarbari). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 3 each recite that the pair of first layers have a pair of end portions opposed to each other, and a pair of side portions located at positions corresponding to the side portions of the magnetoresistive element, and that the pair of first layers each do not extend onto one of the surfaces of each of the bias field applying layers. Independent claims 1 and 3 further recite a pair of covering layers for covering the pair of second layers, the pair of covering layers having a pair of end portions that are opposed to each other and located at positions corresponding to the pair of end portions of the pair of first layers.

Pinarbari fails to disclose these features of claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, Pinarbari does not anticipate the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 3, or of claims 2 and 4, respectively depending therefrom.

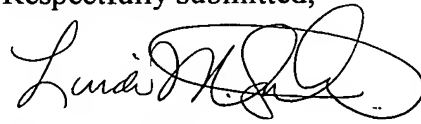
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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